

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Only the no-action alternative was considered since DOE's role in the proposed project would be limited, involving only financial support for 35% of the integrated system's estimated cost. Also, DOE does not have a decision-making role in the proposed project, other than a decision to act on a proposal for a defined project at a specific location.

Under the No-Action Alternative, DOE would not provide partial funding for the integrated power generation system for coal mine waste methane utilization. In the absence of DOE funding, Northwest Fuel Development, Inc. could continue with plans to construct and operate the proposed system, in which case environmental changes would be expected to be the same as those identified and analyzed in the Environmental Assessment. Alternately, Northwest Fuel Development, Inc. could also discontinue plans for the project.

If the proposed project was not funded by DOE, data resulting from demonstration of this innovative technology application would not be available. Information for use by industry in decision making on the application of the technology would also not be available. Evaluation of the applicability and feasibility of the technology for utilization of coal mine waste methane would not be possible.

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